

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LOUISIANA,

IN RELATION

To the construction of a levee on the south bank of Red River ; the opening of the Bayou L'eau Bleue, the validity of titles to land under French and Spanish grants ; and in relation to the 16th sections in that State.

DECEMBER 30, 1839.

Ordered to be printed; and that the first and third resolutions be referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and the second to the Committee on Private Land Claims.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 14TH LEGISLATURE
OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

No. 4.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be respectfully requested to urge upon Congress, by all honorable means, the propriety and necessity of constructing a levee on the south bank of Red river, from Alexandria to the high lands of the Avoyelles prairie, and levees and roads in front of public lands in the parish of Plaquemine; and also, the necessity and importance of making an appropriation sufficient to open the Bayou L'eau Bleue, in the parishes of Lafourche Interior and Terrebonne, in order to lower the waters of Lakes Long and Field; and that copies of the resolution and the annexed memorial be forthwith forwarded to each of our Senators and Representatives, by his excellency the Governor of the State.
Approved, February 26, 1839.

No. 9.

Whereas, there are several large claims to land in the State of Louisiana, derived from the governments of France and Spain, while they exercised the rights of sovereigns over the territory of Louisiana; and whereas, earnest and repeated efforts have, from time to time, been made for the last twenty-five years, by our Senators and Representatives in Congress, in accordance with resolutions at various times passed by the Legislature of this State, and memorials and petitions sent on to Congress by large num-

bers of our citizens, to have the said claims finally settled by the action of the judiciary or in some other effectual mode; and whereas, a serious obstacle has been opposed to the prosperity of the State in consequence of the refusal or delay on the part of the General Government to submit the question of the validity of said claims to the judiciary, or to provide some other mode of bringing the same to a definite adjudication and settlement:

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested to renew their exertions to obtain from Congress the passage of a law giving the claimants to all grants made by Spain and France while they exercised the rights of sovereigns over the territory of Louisiana, and also to all purchasers of land from Indian tribes, the right to test the validity of said grants before the judiciary of the United States upon principles of the laws of nations; the colonial laws and customs of France and Spain, in force in Louisiana at the time said grants were made, and in accordance with the treaties by which Louisiana, and that part of the former territory of West Florida, were acquired by the United States from France and Spain; Providing, also, That if in any case the grant or grants should be decided to be good and valid, and it should appear that the land included in said grant or grants or any portion thereof had been previously sold or disposed of by donation or otherwise by the Government of the United States, shall not be disturbed in their right or possession so acquired, and the claimant under France and Spain shall be entitled to locate an equal quantity of land belonging to the public domain within the limits of Louisiana.

Be it further resolved, That the right herein demanded is one which has at various times been accorded to our sister States of Missouri, Arkansas, and the Territory of Florida, by special enactments of Congress, and to withhold the same from the citizens of Louisiana, is, in the opinion of this Legislature, to establish a distinction between the sovereign States of this confederacy as odious as it is partial in its nature and injurious in its consequences, a distinction which, it is believed, the Congress of this Union have no desire or intention to establish.

Be it further resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana have beheld with pride and pleasure the Senate of the United States recognising and according at various times the right herein demanded by the passage of bills containing the necessary provisions, which bills have been invariably postponed in the House of Representatives to a period virtually indefinite, and which repeated postponements, in the opinion of this Legislature, have produced consequences extremely injurious to the best interests of our citizens, calculated to retard the settlement of large and fertile portions of our country, and thereby materially to affect the prosperity of the State of Louisiana.

And be it further resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward a copy of the resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, who are hereby instructed and requested to lay the same before the bodies of which they are respectively members, and to ask that the same may be read and referred to a select committee to report thereon, and that a day may be set apart for the consideration of the subject to which they relate.

Approved, March 15, 1839.

No. 11.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE SIXTEENTH SECTIONS OF SCHOOL LANDS.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana in General Assembly convened, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to obtain from Congress the passage of a law giving to the Legislature of Louisiana power and authority, such as has been given to Arkansas and other States, to provide by law such rules and regulations as may be deemed expedient to protect them from waste, and to rent or lease out for a period not exceeding five years, the sixteenth sections of school lands situated therein; and also authorizing the Governor of the State, in all cases when the sixteenth sections in any townships have been conceded by a previous or valid title, or any part of it, to select and enter for the benefit of such township the same quantity elsewhere.

Approved, March 16, 1839.

